

In regards to RM-10870, I find this petition as being totally contrary to the betterment of the amateur radio service.

The Morse mode and testing element has been in place for a number of years with many individuals, through effort and motivation, passing the required testing elements. Creating a new entry level license of only 25 questions which can be currently memorized from any available license course material (since the questions are verbatim from the exams), and furthermore, allowing the same individuals

HF access will only serve to reduce the effectiveness of the amateur bands with inexperienced, and what is termed "appliance type operators".

It is common known fact that any amateur who is proficient in (CW) radiotelegraphy has a distinct advantage over other amateurs who are not likewise proficient in this simple communications mode.

Morse code has never been a "filter" towards anyone attempting to obtain a license. In fact, it has been shown, repeatedly, that individuals that have learned the basic code speed of 5 WPM, when using the mode on a frequent basis, have significantly increased their code speed over a very short time.

CW (Morse) testing has never prevented the best and brightest from entering the Amateur Service, nor has it kept out those that are non-technical types (i.e. housewives, wives, children, etc.)

Many of the current operators are operators from the incentive licensing structure days. Many of us were "forced" to upgrade or exit the hobby. Through simple study, practice and effort, we achieved upgrades, many of which didn't stop with one upgrade but continued up to and including the Extra Class license.

Unless some level of proficiency and professionalism is maintained in this service via the retention of testing standards that are appropriate, this service could easily find itself following a similar demise as other communication services.

I feel the FCC, the public and the country deserve better.